



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Pastor Mike Pretzer

## Sunday, December 20, 2020

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Introduction

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

#### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
✝ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

**#490**

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

We Pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle- "People, Look East"**

**Verse 1:** People look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today Love, the Guest is on the way.

**Verse 2:** Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Rose, is on the way.

**Verse 3:** Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Star, is on the way.

**Verse 4:** Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## The Word

### First Reading

### 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

### Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48c</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel*

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **The Gospel**

**Luke1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you , O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn Of The Day**

**"Love Has Come"**

**#292**

## **Statement of Faith**

We believe —

**that we are the light of the world,  
that we should let our light shine before others,  
that our love should be genuine,**

that we should hate what is evil,  
that we should love what is good,  
that we should be guided by the Spirit,  
that we should not be conceited or envy one another,  
that we should clothe ourselves with virtue and  
that we are called to live godly lives.  
We believe in God the Father who calls us;  
we believe in God the Son who died for us; and  
we believe in God the Holy Spirit who empowers us. Amen.

## **Prayers for Healing, Strength, and Good Health**

### **Prayer of St. Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **The Sending**

#### **Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✝ now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

**“What Child Is This”**

**#296**

#### **Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church**

***For the week of December 20, 2020***

**Prayer Concerns at Peace Lutheran Church**

**FOR HEALING, STRENGTH & GOOD HEALTH:**

**Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)**

**Megan Grabow (Shelby & Derek Sister-in-Law)**

**Navah DenHerder**

**Ervin & Florence Heidecker**

**Eric Sellers (Cancer)**

**Tammy McReynolds (Terry Halversons Sister)**

**Matt Ellerkamp (Brain Tumor Treatment)**

**Lea Madler (Lung Cancer)**

**Bonnie Heidecker (Throat Cancer)**

**Beth Fugle (Candy H. Sister- Cancer)**

**Holly (Cancer)**

**Sharon Meissel (cancer)**

**Jackson Portra & his Parents Jared & Mandy Portra**

**Stanley Lang**

**Family of Raymond Hushka**

**Monica Hushka**

**Cheryl Tibor (Knee Surgery)**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS:**

**All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregations: St. John's Lutheran in Richardton & St. John's Episcopal of Dickinson partnering ministries: Lutheran Social Services, Badlands Ministries, the Ministries in the Central African Republic.**

## **Announcements**

### **Nights of Light - Fridays through Christmas**

Zion Lutheran Church in Minot invites you to participate in the Nights of Light each Friday night at 7pm through Christmas Day. Turn on your porch light, create a simple luminary for your front step, or place a candle in a window at home and offer ten minutes of silent prayer. We lift prayers for the world, the church, medical providers, educational staff, funeral homes, assisted care centers, emergency responders, families and individuals burying loved ones, and for leaders making difficult choices.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Both St. John in Richardton and Peace Lutheran in Dickinson are having their usual Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>. St. John's service begins at 4:00 pm. Peace Lutheran's service begins at 6:00 pm. At both services we will spread out and wear masks. We want to worship together as safely as possible.



## Peace Lutheran

1550 21st St. W, Dickinson

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

701-483-1550

Email:

[peacelutheran@ndsupernet.com](mailto:peacelutheran@ndsupernet.com)

Website:

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142819.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

### Peace Lutheran Church Council

**Pastor Mike Pretzer 701-681-1306**

**Bev Holdahl 605-321-9475**

**Jessica Bertelsen 701-590-1126**

**Derek Jilek 701-290-5362**

**Tammy Sadowsky 701-290-5360**

**Travis Kupper 701-226-9226**

**Marilyn Huschka 701-483-0905**

**Jeff Anderson 701-483-8495**

**Kim Jones 701-225-4426**

**Heather Fagerberg 701-300-0374**

**Lola Huscka 701-483-7662**